

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 05372 130744Z

16

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 COME-00 SAM-01

/086 W

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P R 121650Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6363

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ORIT, ELAB, PINT

SUBJECT: "AMNESTY WEEK" PRODUCES BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL
DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: MADRID 5339

1. "AMNESTY WEEK", SPONSORED BY OPPOSITION PLATAJUNTA,
ENDED SUNDAY, JULY 11, WITH AUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATIONS
IN SEVILLA (ESTIMATED 8,000-10,000 PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING
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PAGE 02 MADRID 05372 130744Z

PSOE LEADER FELIPE GONZALEZ), GUADALAJARA, LERIDA,

GIJON, AND MALAGA, AND ATTEMPTED UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATIONS IN MADRID, BARCELONA AND PAMPLONA. ACCORDING TO AMCONSUL SEVILLA DEMONSTRATORS WERE WELL-DISCIPLINED WITH HUMAN CORDON USED TO KEEP ORDER AND POLICE WERE HARDLY IN EVIDENCE. SEVILLA DEMONSTRATION, AND PERHAPS OTHERS IN SMALLER CITIES AS WELL, FOLLOWED PEACEFUL PATTERN SET BY MASSIVE AUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATION HELD JULY 8 IN BILBAO (REFTEL).

2. NATIONWIDE PATTERN OF PEACEFUL OBSERVANCE OF "AMNESTY WEEK" WAS MARRED IN ONLY ONE INSTANCE: ONE WOMAN DEMONSTRATOR WAS SHOT AND KILLED AND TWO CIVIL GUARDS WOUNDED IN AN AS YET UNCLARIFIED INCIDENT DURING AN UNAUTHORIZED DEMONSTRATION IN SANTURCE (NEAR BILBAO) JULY 9. PUBLIC ORDER FORCES SUCCEEDED IN MADRID, BARCELONA AND PAMPLONA IN PREVENTING DEMONSTRATIONS WHEN GROUPS ATTEMPTED TO GATHER AND REPORTEDLY HAD TO USE TRUNCHEONS BUT THERE WERE ONLY A FEW MOSTLY TEMPORARY ARRESTS.

3. COMMENT: IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHY THE GOVT CHOSE TO ALLOW "AMNESTY" DEMONSTRATIONS IN BILBAO, SEVILLA, VALENCIA (SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12) WHILE DENYING PERMISSION IN MADRID AND BARCELONA. WE ASSUME THAT PAMPLONA, IN BASQUE NAVARRA, SEEMED A BIT TOO VOLATILE TO PERMIT DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE FESTIVAL OF SAN FERMIN (AND THE RUNNING OF THE BULLS) AND INDEED THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CLASHES WITH POLICE THERE. THE PLATA-JUNTA DEMONSTRATED SOME CAPACITY TO MOBILIZE A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN. THE UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN SANTURCE IS THE ONLY INCIDENT WHICH MARRED THE IMAGE OF ORDERLINESS WHICH THE PLATA-JUNTA APPARENTLY WANTS TO CREATE IN THE MINDS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. AMCON SEVILLA REPORTS THAT CIVIL GOVERNOR APPROVED DEMONSTRATION BECAUSE IT WAS LED BY MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN PLATA-JUNTA (READ FELIPE GONZALEZ AND NOT COMMUNISTS) WHEREAS HE WAS BANNED EARLIER REQUESTS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS BY "LEFTIST FORCES". DOUBTLESS THE PLATA-JUNTA HAS READ THE TEA LEAVES AND SEEN THAT SOME FORM OF AMNESTY IS AT HAND, AND WANTS TO TAKE AS MUCH CREDIT AS POSSIBLE.

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PAGE 03 MADRID 05372 130744Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, AMNESTY, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID05372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760269-0090
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760769/aaaacibs.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 5339
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "AMNESTY WEEK" PRODUCES BOTH LEGAL AND ILLEGAL DEMONSTRATIONS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006